

NOAA Research International Activities Office FY02 Annual Operating Plan

Introduction

The NOAA Research International Activities Office (IA) plays a major role in facilitating and managing international collaboration in science. It serves as an interface between the research community and the policy and administrative community, both internationally and domestically. Working with NOAA Research and other U.S. research centers, IA aims to help meet both the international needs of the scientific community, as well as the broader needs for sound scientific information for policy and resource management decisions by government and the public. IA strives to consistently advocate the integrity of NOAA Research, lead by maintaining and developing strategic international partnerships, and work closely with its customers to deliver optimal return on investment.

Our Vision

A community that recognizes the importance of international science and technology cooperation for the improved understanding and sustainable use of the marine and atmospheric environment.

Our Mission

To enable NOAA Research to develop new environmental tools and capabilities by fostering strategic international partnerships, and providing critical support to its policy and operational needs.

IA Strategic Pillars

IA deliverables for FY02 support four strategic pillars as outlined in our Strategic Framework for Action. The objectives, listed below, assist NOAA Research to develop new environmental tools and capabilities, and serve the broader policy needs of the organization.

- ▶ Advise NOAA Research and the Office of the Under Secretary on international research programs and issues in support of U.S. foreign policy objectives;
- ▶ Support NOAA Research programs, and its laboratories on international administrative and operational needs;
- ▶ Promote strategic alliances by exploring new opportunities for partnerships with national and international organizations that benefit NOAA Research programs in climate, atmospheric, and marine research; and
- ▶ Lead U.S. oceanic and marine science and technology partnerships by administering bilateral agreements with China, Japan and France.

FY02 Activities and Deliverables

The IA Annual Operating Plan (AOP) represents specific deliverables and services for FY02 which are grouped into five categories. The first four refer to the strategic pillars previously described, which support the long-term strategic goals of IA's Strategic Framework for Action. The fifth category includes administrative and management deliverables which improve IA office efficiency and operations, maximize available staff resources and talents, and meet professional developmental needs for the office.

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- ✓ indicates a FY02 deliverable that was completed.
- ✓ **indicates a FY02 deliverable completed which exceeded projections.**
- X indicates a FY02 deliverable that was not completed for a specific reason, and/or was postponed.

FY02 IA Performance Scorecard

Deliverables	Q1	Q2	Q 3	Q4	Ongoing	Total
Projected	6	3	12	8	13	42
Completed	5	1	9	5.5	12	32.5
Not completed	1	2	3	2.5	1	9.5
Additional	1	2	2	10	3	18

I. Advise NOAA and its research leadership on international research programs and issues in support of U.S. foreign policy objectives.

IA supported the priorities of the Assistant Administrator for NOAA Research and the Office of the Under Secretary by coupling research activities with emerging foreign policies, national initiatives and priorities aimed at delivering new predictive and resource management capabilities for the atmosphere, oceans, and climate. IA disseminated information about NOAA Research programs and initiatives to ensure support from policy makers in the White House Science Office, the Department of State and other agencies in the U.S. and overseas.

- ✓ Advised and supported NOAA Research management and the Office of the Under Secretary on high-level S&T meetings and with visiting foreign delegations (ongoing).
 - ▶ Advised, staffed and participated in the NOAA Administrator's visit to Japan and his role as head of U.S. delegation at the APEC Oceans Ministerial Meeting in Korea.
 - ▶ Initiated meetings and/or provided briefing materials for the NOAA Administrator and AA for Research with high level foreign officials from Japan, Norway, Mexico and Iceland.

- ✓ Advised NOAA Research on priority climate issues in support of U.S. policy objectives, (ongoing).
 - ▶ Served as NOAA Research focal point for staffing/coordinating USG activities on high-level bilateral climate change meetings with Japan, China, India, Australia and Italy.
 - ▶ Ensured appropriate NOAA Research representation on the US delegation.

- ✓ Consulted with, and advised NOAA Research Associate Directors for Oceans and Atmospheric Sciences to develop a strategy for approaching Washington D.C.-based environmental organizations to form potential partnerships, (ongoing).

- ✓ Sponsored seminars that inform the broader NOAA community of international programs and activities, (Q3). *U.S.-China ocean modeling (Q1), and Sea Grant Extension efforts in Nicaragua (Q4).*

- ✓ Developed and disseminated a report on successful aquaculture programs arising from NOAA Research's collaboration with northeast Asia (Aquaculture Benefit Study), (Q1). *Carry-over deliverable from FY01.*

- X Organized briefings to the Department of State by Sea Grant on invasive species. Participate in the Federal agency budget proposal and two year work plan, (Q4). *Postponed until FY03.*

- ✓ **Completed a 5-year U.S. strategy/scope paper for Marine and Fisheries S&T collaborative programs with China, (Q2).**

- ✓ **On behalf of NOAA, worked with the U.S. Embassy to resolve the status of the OGP Tokyo Office, (Q3).**

✓ Coordinated input for NOAA Research in preparation for the WSSD, (Q4).
II. Supported NOAA Research programs, and its laboratories on international administrative and operational needs.

IA provided guidance and service for NOAA Research scientists participating in international collaborations, and serve as a liaison to the foreign policy community both domestically and abroad.

- ✓ Assessed NOAA's Carbon Flask Sampling Network international needs and assist in expanding its future operations by securing embassy support, (ongoing).
- X Assist CMDL establish new monitoring sites in Algeria, Finland (Q1), Indonesia and Kenya, (Q4). *Except for Finland, all other sites did not become operational due to post 9-11 security concerns at U.S. Embassies or lack of interest at the foreign scientist level.*
- ✓ Assisted OAR Laboratories with problematic issues involving field campaigns and research operations overseas, (ongoing).
 - ▶ In response to heightened security concerns, initiated high-level DOS briefings/discussions to maintain continued support from 13 U.S. embassies for CMDL's Flask Monitoring Network.
 - ▶ Disseminated to NOAA Research labs updates on changes in the US via application process for visiting foreign scientists.
- ✓ Prepared and processed Country Clearance Cables for NOAA Research scientists traveling overseas (ongoing). *A total of 810 cables were prepared and processed by IA.*
- ✓ Enhanced outreach, education, and personal interaction between IA Staff and OAR Laboratories by engaging in site visits, attending lab and science reviews, and providing briefings and information on IA support services to scientists, (ongoing).
 - ▶ Attended two thirds of the NOAA Research Mini Reviews,
 - ▶ Arranged meetings with Boulder labs, NSSL, AOML and PMEL to assess their international research needs/discuss program activities,
 - ▶ Arranged briefings between IA and labs/programs in Silver Spring, and
 - ▶ Provided IA presentation and poster during the NOAA Research HQ Review.
- ✓ **Provided and/or arranged for 23 NOAA Research and program briefings to representatives from Romania, Brazil, China, Thailand, Korea, Colombia, South Africa, World Bank, DOS, FAO, and NOAA HQ, (ongoing).**
- ✓ **Staffed and responded to administrative and informational requests from NOAA HQ and other agencies, (ongoing).**
- ✓ **In partnership with FSL, jointly assessed Mozambique's weather service and developed a cooperative project proposal, (Q3) .**
- ✓ **Supported AOML on PORSEC (Satellite Oceanography) Conference in Bali,**

Indonesia, (Q4).

- ✓ Served as a conduit for NOAA Research international issues with the U.S. and foreign policy communities, (ongoing).

III. Promoted strategic alliances by exploring new opportunities for partnerships with national and international organizations that benefit NOAA Research programs in climate, atmospheric, and marine research.

IA focused on developing partnerships with NOAA Line Offices, other government agencies, academia, the private sector, civil society and the international community to support the NOAA Research Partnership Mission of cooperative research focused on global-scale environmental issues.

- ✓ Initiated and led U.S. efforts for a Climate Modeling and Science Workshop at the International Pacific Research Center (IPRC) aimed at facilitating closer bilateral cooperation in ocean data assimilation and climate modeling, (Q3). *Workshop was held in Japan 2/02-completed Q2.*
- ✓ **As a result from the NOAA Research-Japan Climate Modeling and Science Workshop further meetings and collaborative interactions resulted including the following: cost-benefit studies of ocean observations, defining specific collaborative projects on ocean data assimilation, and further refinement of bilateral priorities in climate modeling research, with possible utilization of Japan's Earth Simulator (Q4)**
- ✓ Initiated and led U.S. efforts for a science workshop at the International Pacific Research Center (IPRC) aimed at facilitating closer bilateral cooperation in ocean data assimilation and climate modeling, (Q3). *Workshop was held in Japan 2/02-completed Q2.*
- X Team with NOAA Arctic Research Office to facilitate establishment of a bilateral framework on Arctic Research with Russia, (Q3). *Progress was overtaken by shifting political priorities at the DOS policy level; efforts on the scientific level continue to be nurtured and pursued successfully.*
- ✓ Developed new partnerships between NOAA Research and multinational development institutions, (Q4).
 - ▶ Initiated interactions with AID, WB and DOS to develop a “one-stop-shopping” agreement for NOAA Research environmental services and products.
- ✓ Initiated a binational dialogue and exchange to develop a Sea Grant program in Japan and Latin America, (Q3).
 - ▶ Hosted a workshop with representatives from SG, Panama, Ecuador, Brazil and Colombia at AOML to exchange information and discuss ideas on developing a

- ▶ SG program in Latin America..
 - ▶ In partnership with SG Hawaii and California, efforts continue to develop a SG program in Japan.
- ✓ **Initiated a binational dialogue and exchange to develop a regional Sea Grant program in Southeast Asia with the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Program in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP), (Q2).**
- X Explore collaborative opportunities in aquaculture and applications of the Sea Grant model under the U.S.-Vietnam Science and Technology Agreement (*postponed until FY03*).
- ✓ Served as U.S. focal point for developing capacity building on Argo float assembly, deployment, data analysis and assimilation with Korea, (Q3).
- ✓ Led U.S. preparatory and executive efforts for the 1st U.S.-Korea Aquaculture Workshop in Korea, (Q3).
- ½ ✓ Developed an intranet data base tools for international funding opportunities, and disseminate to NOAA Research and its university partners via the IA webpage, (Q4). *Draft database was compiled and is being refined; scheduled to be launched on the IA webpage in FY03.*
- ✓ Promoted international awareness and partnerships for the U.S. Ocean Exploration Initiative, (ongoing).
 - ▶ OE provided presentations to three visiting foreign delegations.
 - ▶ Initiated discussions for OE leadership under the US-Japan Cooperative Program in Natural Resources (UJNR), (Q4).
- ✓ Disseminated announcements for funding opportunities, solicited and submitted proposals from the NOAA Research community to the East Asian Pacific Environmental Initiative (EAP/EI) sponsored by USAID and the Oceans, Environment & Scientific Initiative (OESI) sponsored by the Department of State, (ongoing).
- X In concert with the AD for Weather and Air Quality, initiate a NOAA Research briefing to the Organization of American States (OAS) to gain political support to develop enhanced weather forecasting capabilities in South America, (Q2). *Postponed by AD for Weather and Air Quality.*
- ✓ **Secured approval from the Department of State for \$150K to develop a multi-year implementation plan for the development of Sea Grant in Latin America, (Q4).**
- ✓ **Prepared a proposal for visiting scientist program between Mondlane University in Mozambique and FSL, (Q4).**
- ✓ **Facilitated a new partnership between U.S. and Korea on developing pathogen-free**

- ✓ cold water shrimp, (Q1).
- ✓ **Continued collaborative and exchange efforts to develop an outreach and extension capacity on the Korean SG program, (Q4).**

IV. Led U.S. oceanic and marine science and technology partnerships by administrating bilateral agreements with China, Japan and France.

International S&T agreements are valuable tools for ensuring the access to data, facilities, sites and scientific expertise, as well as sharing the costs of global-scale environmental research programs. On behalf of the U.S. Government, IA administered three bilateral agreements in marine and ocean sciences with China, France and Japan. In addition, IA participated in other, strategic bilateral frameworks to gain necessary political support to advance NOAA Research priorities and programs.

China

- ✓ Led the U.S. preparatory, executive and follow-up efforts to host the 15th Joint Working Group Meeting on Cooperation for the Marine and Fishery Science and Technology, (Q2).
- ✓ Teamed with NOAA's Arctic Research Office to develop an arctic collaborative program with China, (Q3).
 - ▶ Led U.S. preparatory, executive and follow-up activities for the 1st U.S.-China International Workshop on Polar Science: Arctic Ocean Expedition.
 - ▶ Implemented an US-China Arctic research scientist exchange program by inviting two Chinese researchers to join the US summer '02 Arctic expedition team on board the Canadian Coast Guard Icebreaker Louis St. Laurent.
- ✓ Ensured China's continued participation in the Argo program and coordinated technical training on Argo float assembly, calibration and deployment procedures, as well as data analysis and assimilation, (Q3).
- ✓ Led U.S. preparatory and executive efforts for the 5th U.S.-China Joint Coordination Panel Meeting on Marine Living Resources in China, (Q4). *Completed in Q3.*
- ✓ Enhanced U.S.-China collaboration in climate and ocean modeling research through a Chinese scientist exchange program with GFDL/Princeton University, (Q4). *RFP was issued to China and nominations were received; selection of fellow will be made by 12/02.*
- ✓ **Initiated, facilitated and secured U.S. access (CMDL and Univ. of Alaska) to Chinese monitoring sites and data for aerosols, Golden Dust and carbon cycle**

studies, (Q4) .

France

- X Promote continued understanding of oyster genetics by supporting bilateral fellowship opportunities between the U.S. and France, (Q3). *Fellowship offered but was declined.*
- ✓ Provided administrative support to the U.S. scientific team for a follow-up workshop on "New Developments in Shellfish Maricultural Genetics" to be held in the U.S., (Q4). *The first workshop in France was postponed due to 9/11 and was held in May 2002, (Q3).*
- X Identify and strengthen U.S.-France collaboration in operational oceanography (Argo, PIRATA, CLIVAR, GODAE) and a real-time acoustic event detection system, (ongoing).

Japan

- ✓ Led the U.S. preparatory and executive efforts for the 30th UJNR Aquaculture Panel Meeting in Sarasota, Florida, (Q1).
- X Enhance U.S.-Japan collaboration in marine fish stock enhancement science by supporting a student exchange program for flounder research under the UJNR Aquaculture Panel, (Q2). *Postponed to FY03 due to delay in receiving FY02 aquaculture funding.*
- ✓ Initiated preparations for the 31st UJNR Aquaculture Panel Meeting to be held in Japan in FY03, (ongoing).

V. IA Management and Administration

- ✓ Finalized and publicized the IA Strategic Plan, (Q1).
- ✓ Finalized and implemented the FY02 IA Annual Operating Plan, (Q1).
- ✓ Planned and held the IA Annual Retreat, (Q3).
- X Re-examine long-range goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, (Q3).
- ✓ Restructured IA staff responsibilities based on available staff and talent pool, (Q1).
- ✓ Every IA staff member completed professional training courses, tailored to individual developmental needs (ongoing).
 - ▶ Staff completed six professional training courses; and
 - ▶ completed the IT Security Training course.
- ✓ **Participated in the NOAA Research HQ Review, to help clarify IA's roles and responsibilities to our labs and programs, (Q4).**

- ✓ **Participated and contributed to the NOAA Research SFA process. (ongoing)**
 - ▶ **Ensured 100% IA participation in the SFA assessment;**
 - ▶ **Completed the SFA facilitated session; and**
 - ▶ **Developed/implemented new SFA Action Plan for IA.**

- ✓ **Supported NOAA's diversity policy by hosting PHASE II, MetCon and ORISE interns, (Q4).**

- ✓ **IA staff facilitated 17 SFA sessions for NWS, NMFS and NOS, (Q4).**